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# EFFECTIVE FUNCTIONING OF BODIES ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS INSTRUMENTS

Note by the Secretary-General

1. Pursuant to paragraph 3 of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1990/25, in which the Commission invited the human rights treaty monitoring bodies to review the study on possible long-term approaches to enhancing the effective operation of existing and prospective bodies established under United Nations human rights instruments (A/44/668) and to comment on the relevant conclusions and recommendations, the Secretary-General made the study available to the various treaty bodies.

2. While all of the treaty bodies supported the general thrust of the study and endorsed the recommendations and conclusions, the Human Rights Committee adopted detailed comments thereon. Those comments are attached in an annex to this document.

3. It may also be recalled that the study was reviewed by the Chairpersons of the human rights treaty bodies at their third meeting, held from 1 to 5 October 1990. The comments of the Chairpersons may be found in document A/45/636, which is also before the Commission under the present agenda item.

GE. 91-10473

ANNEX

# STUDY ON POSSIBLE LONG-TERM APPROACHES TO ENHANCING THE EFFECTIVE OPERATION OF EXISTING AND PROSPECTIVE BODIES ESTABLISHED UNDER UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS INSTRUMENTS

## Comments by the Human Rights Committee

In its resolution 1990/25, the Commission on Human Rights, at its forty-sixth session, decided, inter alia, to invite "the treaty bodies to review the study on possible long-term approaches, to consider which conclusions and recommendations are of relevance to their respective spheres and to send their comments to the Secretary-General". Pursuant to that resolution the Human Rights Committee reviewed the study, contained in document A/44/668, at its thirty-ninth session, held in July 1990. Its comments on the conclusions and recommendations of the study, as contained in the summary of document A/44/668, are provided below:

The Committee agrees that reporting procedures are of central importance to the international human rights régime. At the same time it believes that attention should also be drawn to the vital importance of the domestic procedures used in preparing reports. In particular, it is important, in the process of preparing reports, to take the opportunity to notify as many sectors of the community as possible of the preparation of the report (para. 2).

The Committee, bearing in mind its own experience in this regard, supports the suggestion to grant a degree of discretion as to the periodicity of reporting to monitoring bodies to be established under future treaties. It considers that the reporting periodicity should not extend beyond five years (para. 4).

While overlapping reporting requirements do pose a problem and should be kept to a minimum, resort by a State Party to simple cross-referencing will not adequately meet the needs of the treaty bodies. The meeting of chairpersons should consider the matter and make recommendations on the subject to the various treaty bodies as to the type of cross-referencing that may be appropriate and acceptable. For this purpose the report of the Secretary-General showing the extent of overlapping of issues dealt with in international instruments of human rights, contained in document HRI/MC/1988/L.3, should be resubmitted to the forthcoming meeting of chairpersons. Consideration could also be given to making that document available to States Parties. Assistance to States Parties in preparing reports, at the national, subregional or regional level, should be a priority area for the United Nations advisory services and technical assistance programme. In addition, the consolidated guidelines for the initial part of State Party reports, as well as the manual being prepared by UNITAR in collaboration with the Centre for Human Rights with a view to assisting States in fulfilling their reporting obligations, should be finalized and made available to the States Parties as soon as possible (paras. 5 and 6).

The Committee strongly supports the view that the activities of human rights treaty bodies should be financed through the regular budget of the United Nations (paras. 8 to 14).

The Committee agrees that Secretariat staffing levels as well as financial resources to support the activities of the treaty bodies are grossly inadequate, particularly in comparison with the level of support available for activities for which funds are required from other international institutions. If the treaty bodies are to be able to cope successfully with their growing work-loads, such support must clearly be increased. The Committee noted further that despite the importance of human rights which, as the Secretary-General has recognized, played "a crucial role in maintaining the stability of national and international society", the human rights sector was receiving less than 1 per cent of the regular budget of the United Nations (para. 16).

The Committee supports the recommendations in paragraph 17. It has been the Committee's practice to provide such lists shortly before consideration of the report. The Committee also supports the recommendation in paragraph 18.

The Committee considers that its practice of recording observations by members at the conclusion of the consideration of a State Party report has been highly useful both to the Committee and to the States Parties and would accordingly recommend the adoption of a similar practice to other treaty bodies (para. 19).

The maximization of normative consistency in respect of human rights standards is clearly desirable. However, owing to the existing staff constraints progress in this respect can only be envisaged over the longer term as increased Secretariat staff resources are made available (paras. 20 and 21).

The Committee is satisfied with the format of its annual report but agrees that, to promote greater awareness of the work of the treaty bodies, it might be helpful if the annual reports could be synthesized from time to time and made available in more readable form for distribution to the general public. The Committee also shares the view expressed in the study on the need for giving greater publicity to the work of the treaty bodies, particularly through the United Nations Information Centres (para. 22).

Based on its experience, the Committee agrees that the functioning of monitoring bodies would be greatly assisted if the relevant travaux préparatoires were made available in accessible form (para. 29).

The Committee, while appreciating the concerns voiced in paragraph 168 of the study, is of the view that preference should not be given in the future to non-binding instruments over binding instruments and suggests that whenever possible the supervisory or monitoring functions established under new human rights treaties be assigned to appropriate existing treaty bodies. The Committee considers that some of the existing treaty bodies would have the competence to monitor the implementation of more than one international human rights instrument and agrees that it would be preferable that new instruments were adopted, as far as possible, as protocols to existing instruments. Should such new responsibilities be contemplated, the relevant monitoring bodies should be consulted and appropriate arrangements, including for staff and financial support, be made (paras. 28, 30, 31, 32 and 33).

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# FURTHER PROMOTION AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS, INCLUDING THE QUESTION OF THE PROGRAMME AND METHODS OF WORK OF THE COMMISSION

Note by the Secretariat

## Implementation of General Assembly Resolution 45/180 and Resolution 45/248B

GE. 91-10510

1. The General Assembly, on the basis of reports presented by the Secretary-General A/45/807 and A/C.5/45/66 decided, by Resolution 45/248 B, to authorise the Secretary-General immediately to create three posts in the Centre for Human Rights in relation to the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

2. The Assembly also decided that the Secretary-General should enter into commitments for further resources equivalent to four other posts, subject to review by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the basis of the results of his management and work-load analysis which was to be completed no later than January 1991.

3. On the basis of the relevant results of a study by the Management Advisory Service (MAS), substantive justification is now being submitted by the Secretary-General to ACABQ for these four additional posts which, with the concurrence of ACABQ, will be established immediately.

4. The Centre's overall needs will be further looked into by the Secretary-General in formulating the programme budget for 1992-3 for submission to the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and ACABQ in May 1991. In making his proposals for this section of the programme budget the Secretary-General will, in accordance with the Assembly's request contained in Resolution 45/180, include programme and resource proposals for long-term solutions to the problems posed by the situation of the Centre.

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# THE RIGHT OF PEOPLES TO SELF-DETERMINATION AND ITS APPLICATION TO PEOPLES UNDER COLONIAL OR ALIEN DOMINATION OR FOREIGN OCCUPATION

## Letter dated 8 February 1991 from the Permanent Representative of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights

As is known to all, Tibet is a part of China. Yet a few NGO representatives, in disregard of this fact, preached the "right to self-determination" for the Tibetan people during the debate of the current session of the Commission on Human Rights under item 9 "The right of peoples to self-determination and its application to peoples under colonial or alien domination or foreign occupation". I have the honour to provide you herewith a copy of China's position document on the so-called "Tibetan people's right to self-determination".

I should be very grateful if you could arrange for the aforementioned document to be circulated as an official document of the Commission on Human Rights under item 9.

(Signed) Fan Guoxiang
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

POSITION DOCUMENT OF CHINA ON THE SO-CALLED "TIBETAN PEOPLE'S RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION"
(February 1991)

1. Recently, a handful of people have been keenly talking about the "Tibetan people's right to self-determination", asserting that Tibet was historically an independent State and that it was only because of China's "occupation" of Tibet in the early 1950s that Tibet lost its independence. Consequently, they say, the Tibetan people should resume the exercise of their "right to self-determination". Such an assertion is made out of ulterior motives.

2. First of all, the above assertion constitutes a serious distortion of historical facts. As is known to all, Tibet is an inalienable part of China's territory. China began to exercise its sovereignty over Tibet as early as more than 700 years ago, long before the establishment of many countries in the world today. The Agreement on Measures for the Peaceful Liberation of Tibet signed by the Central People's Government and the Tibetan local government on 23 May 1951 and the peaceful liberation of Tibet are concrete manifestations of the Chinese Government's exercise of sovereign jurisdiction over Tibet. This is entirely China's internal affairs. There is neither historical nor legal ground to describe the above as China's "occupation" of Tibet.

3. Secondly, any attempt to assert the so-called "Tibetan people's right to self-determination" is a complete misinterpretation of the principles of "self-determination" contained in the United Nations human rights instruments. In essence, a people's right to self-determination refers to the right of the oppressed nations and peoples to get rid of imperialist and colonialist domination and to strive for national liberation and State independence. After the Opium War in 1840, imperialists invaded China's inland and, at the same time, advanced into China's Tibet. As a result, China was gradually reduced to a semi-colonial country. For more than a century, the Chinese people have waged an unremitting struggle for national liberation. The founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949 and the subsequent peaceful liberation of Tibet marked a great victory for all the Chinese people, including the people of Tibet, in their protracted struggle to free themselves from imperialist and colonialist domination and restore their State sovereignty and territorial integrity. This victory was also a true reflection of the Chinese nation's fight for the right to national survival and its exercise of the right to self-determination.

4. The so-called "Tibetan people's right to self-determination" raised by some is nothing but an attempt to turn a matter essentially within the national jurisdiction of a country into one for discussion within the scope of international law. One may ask, at what time has China ever lost its sovereignty over Tibet? Moreover, which country in the world has recognized "the State of Tibet"? If the answers are negative, then what reason is there to apply the principle of self-determination to China's internal affairs? Obviously, it runs counter to the fundamental spirit of United Nations human rights instruments.

5. Thirdly, the preaching of "Tibetan people's right to self-determination" constitutes a wilful trampling upon the basic norms governing international relations and a serious encroachment upon the sovereignty of unified, multinational States, posing a grave threat to all the multinational States in the world. The Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, in the elaboration of the application of the right of peoples to self-determination, categorically confines the application to "colonies", "dependencies" and "trust and non-self-governing territories or all other territories which have not yet achieved independence". In order to prevent any misinterpretation of the principle of self-determination, the Declaration specifically notes: "Any attempt aimed at the partial or total disruption of the national unity and the territorial integrity of a country is incompatible with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations". As a unified, multinational State, China, in dealing with its internal ethnic problems, cannot but proceed from its specific national conditions and solve the problems within the scope of its State sovereignty. The application of the principle of self-determination to China's ethnic problems and ethnic relations not only is detrimental to the establishment and consolidation of a relationship among its nationalities of equality, friendship and mutual assistance but also jeopardizes China's territorial integrity and unity. Therefore, the advocacy of "Tibetan people's right to self-determination" is, in essence, the preaching and instigation of separatist sentiments among the nationalities and it is also an act aimed at naked dismembering of a sovereign State. One cannot but express great indignation at such assertions which brazenly trample upon the basic norms governing international relations.

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QUESTION OF THE VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS IN ANY PART OF THE WORLD, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO COLONIAL AND OTHER DEPENDENT COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES, INCLUDING:

SITUATION IN OCCUPIED KUWAIT

Note verbale dated 11 February 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations Office at Geneva, addressed to the secretariat of the Commission on Human Rights

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Iraq to the United Nations Office at Geneva presents its compliments to the secretariat of the forty-seventh session of the Commission on Human Rights, and has the honour to enclose herewith a copy of a letter dated 24 October 1990 by Mr. Tariq Aziz, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Iraq to the Secretary-General of the United Nations concerning a secret letter addressed to the Minister of the Interior of the former Kuwaiti régime by the Director-General of the State Security Department on 22 November 1989. This document has been adopted as an official document of the Security Council under the reference S/21907 on 25 October 1990. */

The Permanent Mission of Iraq would be grateful if the secretariat circulates this letter and its annex as a document of the forty-seventh session of the Commission on Human Rights under agenda item 12 (b).

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*/ Security Council document S/21907 is available to the Commission.

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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
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Agenda item 16

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR THE SECOND DECADE TO COMBAT RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

Letter dated 13 February 1991 from the Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations Office at Geneva, addressed to the Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights

On 8 February 1991, during the afternoon session of the Commission, the representative of Syria made repeated approving references to the profoundly racist, anti-Semitic, and calumnious allegation that members of the Jewish faith have engaged in the ritual murder of Christians, including children, to use their bloood in the preparation of the unleavened bread of the Passover feast.

Such statements, absurd and patently false, are historical incitements to prejudice and violence. We had thought that they had been relegated to the ashcan of history. They have no place in this Commission. They offend the decorum of this body and damage the credibility of its work. We deeply regret that the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, which is dedicated to ending intolerance toward any religious, racial, or ethnic group, was the venue for the expression of such crude and hateful allegations.

We assume that the statements made by the Representative of Syria do not reflect the views of the Government of Syria.

J. Kenneth Blackwell
U.S. Representative

(Signed)

Morris B. Abram
Ambassador

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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
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Agenda item 19

# REPORT OF THE SUB-COMMISSION ON PREVENTION OF DISCRIMINATION AND PROTECTION OF MINORITIES ON ITS FORTY-SECOND SESSION

Note by the Secretary-General

1. The Secretary-General has the honour to draw to the attention of the members of the Commission on Human Rights that, in the course of its forty-second session, the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities adopted 13 resolutions and 1 decision having administrative and programme budget implications. These administrative and programme budget implications are contained in annex II of the Sub-Commission's report (E/CN.4/1991/2-E/CN.4/Sub.2/1990/59).

2. In addition, the administrative and programme budget implications of the above-mentioned resolutions will be presented orally to the Commission at the time of their consideration.

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QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS IN ANY PART OF THE WORLD, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO COLONIAL AND OTHER DEPENDENT COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES, INCLUDING:

(b) STUDY OF SITUATIONS WHICH APPEAR TO REVEAL A CONSISTENT PATTERN OF GROSS VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS AS PROVIDED IN COMMISSION RESOLUTION 8 (XXIII) AND ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS 1235 (XLII) AND 1503 (XLVIII); REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP ON SITUATIONS ESTABLISHED BY THE COMMISSION AT ITS FORTY-SIXTH SESSION

Letter dated 13 February 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Panama to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights

I have the honour to forward to you herewith the text of the statement by the delegation of the Republic of Panama to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights at its forty-seventh session.

The delegation of Panama respectfully requests that text be circulated as an official document of the Commission at its forty-seventh session under agenda item 12 (b), Human rights in times of armed conflicts.

(Signed) Osvaldo Velásquez
Ambassador

Statement by the delegation of the Republic of Panama to the Commission on Human Rights, at its forty-seventh session, on agenda item 12 (b), Human rights in times of armed conflicts

1. The Government of the Republic of Panama, through its delegation to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights at its forty-seventh session, appeals to countries involved in armed conflicts to observe international humanitarian rules.

2. Conventional weapons currently used in armed conflicts have been developed to a point at which their excessive power of destruction causes enormous losses in human life and property. It is logical to assume, therefore, that those involved in an armed conflict could resort to the use of weapons which in their scale of destruction and annihilation of human lives are not conventional: nuclear, chemical and bacteriological weapons. The effects of such weapons would be catastrophic and of incalculable magnitude for mankind; their use would constitute the greatest disregard of human rights and a crime against humanity to be condemned by all nations in the world. The existence of nuclear arsenals is a cause for justifiable concern to States throughout the world, in that it endangers the security of present and future generations, threatening the existence of human life on the planet. Likewise, the use of chemical and bacteriological weapons causes incalculable harm for mankind, destroying innocent lives, including those of women and children. Therefore, the Republic of Panama wishes to draw attention to the urgent need for all States to comply strictly with the principles and purposes of the Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare, signed at Geneva on 17 June 1925.

3. On behalf of our country, the delegation of Panama avails itself of the opportunity provided at this forum to exhort the countries involved in the war in the Persian Gulf to refrain from the use of nuclear, chemical and bacteriological weapons, which would constitute the greatest disregard of human rights.

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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR THE SECOND DECADE TO COMBAT RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

Letter dated 14 February 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Australia to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights

On behalf of the Australian delegation, I wish to reiterate the Australian Government's condemnation of all incitements to racial or religious hatred.

For this reason the Australian delegation deplores and rejects the statement by a Syrian delegate on Friday, 8 February 1991 in which she commended to the Commission a book which promotes outrageous and mendacious allegations against Jewish people and their religion. In the view of the Australian delegation such statements are unacceptable in the Commission on Human Rights or anywhere else.

I would be grateful if you could arrange to have this letter circulated as an official document of the Commission under item 16 of its agenda.

(signed): R.A. WALKER
Leader, Australian Delegation

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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR THE SECOND DECADE TO COMBAT RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

Letter dated 18 February 1991 from the Permanent Representatives of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights

The Nordic countries deplore the statement made by the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic in exercising her right of reply in the meeting of the Commission on Friday, 8 February 1991, in which she at least indirectly made approving references to false and groundless allegations against Jews and their religion.

It is the firm conviction of the Nordic countries that all incitements to racial and religious prejudice and hatred should be vigorously condemned. Indeed, one of the main objectives of the work of the Commission on Human Rights is to promote religious, racial and political tolerance. This makes it all the more regrettable when the Commission is used as a forum to make statements in contradiction of this important objective.

The Nordic countries would be grateful if you could arrange for this letter to be circulated as an official document of the Commission under item 16 of the agenda.

(Signed) Jacob Esper Larsen
Ambassador
Danish Delegation

Veijo Sampovaara
Ambassador
Finnish Delegation

Kristinn F. Arnason
Chargé d'Affaires a.i.
Icelandic Delegation

Haakon B. Hjelde
Ambassador
Norwegian Delegation

Jan Romare
Ambassador
Swedish Delegation

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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR THE SECOND DECADE TO COMBAT RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

Letter dated 19 February 1991 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the Centre for Human Rights

Geneva, 19 February 1991

The Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations Office at Geneva presents its compliments to the United Nations Centre for Human Rights and has the honour to enclose herewith a copy of the statement made by the delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic on 8 February 1991 in exercise of its right of reply to the statement made by the representative of the World Union of Progressive Judaism.

The reply, made in Arabic (enclosed is an unofficial translation), did not in the least refer to Jews or Judaism and did not mention anything related to Judaic rituals. All remarks attributed to this reply are unfounded accusations and the campaign on which they are based is baseless and unjustified.

The head of the delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic had provided the Under-Secretary-General and Director of the Centre for Human Rights, Mr. J. Martenson, with an official copy in Arabic of the reply with an English translation. He emphasized that the Syrian Arab Republic respects Judaism as it respects other religions and reaffirmed that, in Syria, there is no discrimination or differentiation in treatment between citizens, regardless of

the religion, sect or creed they belong to; the Constitution guarantees all this. It should be noted that foreign officials such as members of the American Congress and envoys of other States, who have visited Syria and have met with a number of Syrian citizens of the Jewish faith, have confirmed and expressed in their conversations and reports that Syria is well known for its tolerance. They referred to the absence of any kind of discrimination against Jews in Syria. Most of them stressed that Syrian citizens of the Jewish faith enjoy good economic and living standards and that employment and economic activity opportunities are freely available to all of them; they have their own schools and synagogues. Also, State schools and universities are open to them on an equal footing with other citizens. Thus, the reply did not at all refer to Jews or Judaism, but rather to the discriminatory nature of the Zionist movement, which comprises an ideology based on expelling the Arab population from Palestine, replacing it with foreigners and establishing Israel, which embraces this doctrine and considers it its characteristic feature and principal foundation. Israel applies the law of return, under which a Jew who has never been to Palestine is allowed to return there, while Palestinian Arabs are expelled and prevented from returning to their homeland where they have lived continuously for many centuries together with their fathers and grandfathers. The Israeli Government does not conceal its belief in this ideology. We have recently witnessed that the Moledet Party, which calls for expelling the Arab population from the occupied territories and is led by retired General Rehavim Zeevi, has been rewarded with the appointment of Mr. Zeevi as Minister. It should be noted that in 1975, the United Nations General Assembly, in view of this practice and such discrimination, adopted resolution 3379 (XXX) in which it determined that Zionism is a form of racism and racial discrimination. Repressive Israeli practices against Palestinians, which have been going on for several years in the West Bank and Gaza, confirm now more than ever the above-mentioned General Assembly resolution.

The Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic expresses its strongest indignation at the distorted information that appeared in a number of newspapers and communications which took this distortion as their basis and attributed it to the Syrian reply, which did not include such remarks, as well as against the campaign that followed these articles, and requests that this note be circulated as an official document of the forty-seventh session of the Commission on Human Rights.

Mr. Chairman,

At this morning's meeting the representative of the so-called World Union for Progressive Judaism expressed certain ideas which aim at distorting the truth and diverting attention from what is going on in the occupied territories and the barbarous Nazi practices committed by the occupying Zionist authorities. It is clear that such attempts shall have the same fate as previous ones which fail to conceal the racist nature of the Zionist movement which emerged at the end of the last century in the context of racist and colonial policies practised by the then colonial countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America. The basis of that movement was to establish an entity based on pure discrimination supported by colonialists just as racist régimes were set up in Africa, particularly in South Africa and Rhodesia. History has clearly demonstrated this and we can see this clearly happening now in the occupied Palestinian territories, in the Syrian Arab Golan and in southern Lebanon as well. This has led the international community to recognize this fact through the adoption of General Assembly resolution 3379 (XXX) of 1975 which acknowledged that Zionism was a form of racism. This resolution reflects the opinion of the international community, not the other way round. Those who seek the elimination of this resolution are undoubtedly protectors and promoters of racism.

Mr. Chairman, regardless of the ability of the speaker and his organization to distort facts, he cannot change historical realities recorded in the legal investigation files of France and included in the factual historical book, "The Matsa of Sion". We should like to urge all members of the Commission to read this very important work that demonstrates unequivocally the historical reality of Zionist racism.

With your permission, Mr. Chairman, I should like to draw the Commission's attention to another fact. The victim referred to in the book is Father Abadri Tuma who was born in Colongia on the island of Sardinia. France accepted him as a Catholic missionary and sent him to Damascus in 1807 and when he was killed he had spent 33 years there. He was very well known in Damascus because he was practising medicine and visiting all members of the population, regardless of their religion, to vaccinate them against smallpox. It is worth mentioning that the investigation which followed his murder was under the supervision of the French Consul in Damascus, Le Conte De Rattimento, in collaboration with his assistant and the Governors of Damascus at that time, and those who read the book and learn about the reasons for Father Tuma's murder would clearly understand the reality of Zionist racism.

I do not wish to speak at any greater length, because time is valuable, but I did wish to draw the attention of the Commission that the role of certain NGOs at this Commission seems to be to hamper the work of this important Commission. It would be a good idea for the Commission, whose aim is to promote and protect human rights everywhere, to reconsider the criteria of participation of such organizations.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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